



J. TYLER McCaULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

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TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – ST ANNE’S  
MATERNITY HOME, ST. ANNE’S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM**

We have completed a review of St Anne’s Maternity Home, St. Anne’s Residential Program (St. Anne’s). St Anne’s contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). St Anne’s is a one hundred and two bed facility, located in the First Supervisorial District, that provides care for pregnant and parenting girls ages 11-18 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, St Anne’s was providing services for thirty-six Los Angeles County Probation children and twelve DCFS children.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to verify that St Anne’s was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues and included an evaluation of St Anne’s Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with five children placed with St Anne’s at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by St Anne’s, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*“To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service”*

### **Summary of Findings**

Generally, St Anne's was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, we noted that St. Anne's needs to make improvements to its common rooms; provide additional storage areas in the residents' bedrooms; provide age-appropriate indoor and outdoor recreational equipment; improve its Needs and Services Plans and Quarterly Reports; and include residents in menu planning.

### **Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the agency's management. The agency's management is required to provide DCFS and Probation with a written corrective action plan within fifteen business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Patrick McMahon at (213) 974-0729.

JTM:PM:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer  
Tony Walker, Interim Chief Executive Officer, St Anne's Maternity Home

**ST. ANNE'S MATERNITY HOME**  
**St. Anne's Residential program**  
**155 North Occidental Blvd.**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90026**  
**(213) 381-2931 (213) 381-7804 FAX**  
**License No.: 191802087**  
**Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

**Comments:**

St. Anne's is located in a residential neighborhood in Los Angeles. The exterior of the facility was attractive, well maintained, and fully gated.

The facility had three floors of living quarters, a dining hall, and Child Development Center (CDC). Although the kitchen and dining areas were well maintained, the common areas on each floor were not appropriately furnished or decorated to provide the residents with a place for relaxing, socializing, watching television, conducting meetings, or engaging in activities with their children.

The bedroom furniture was in good condition and consisted of beds, desks, and chests of drawers. The children of the residents were provided with appropriate cribs or toddler beds according to their age and developmental level. The residents were permitted to personalize their bedrooms; however, most of them were crowded and disorganized because of insufficient shelving, cabinets, and storage areas to accommodate the residents and their children.

Indoor recreational activities included board games, books, and videos. Many of the residents had televisions and radios in their rooms. However, there was no indoor recreational equipment such as paints, blocks, tables, etc., for residents to interact with their children, and no play area and/or sufficient activities and toys for the residents' children on each living quarter floor. In addition, there were no outside recreational opportunities for the residents such as balls, exercise equipment, or other recreational equipment.

The CDC provided a recreational and learning resource for the residents' children when the residents' were outside the facility.

St Anne's had a study area with computers and various resource materials, and a tutor available to the residents twice per week.

The on-grounds kitchen was staffed with a professional cook and maintained in accordance with standards set by the Los Angeles County Department of Health. In addition, the residents who lived on the first floor, known as the Emancipation Floor, had access to a kitchenette.

### **Recommendations**

**1. St Anne's management:**

- a. Decorate and furnish the common areas on each floor to provide an appropriate and home-like environment for the residents' and their children as required by the Statement of Work.**
- b. Provide additional shelving units, cabinets, and/or storage units in the resident bedrooms.**
- c. Provide adequate and age-appropriate indoor and outdoor recreational equipment for the residents and their children.**

## **II. PROGRAM SERVICES**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

#### **Comments:**

The residents met St Anne's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and received an initial diagnostic assessment.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, but did not note specific and measurable objectives or discuss parenting goals. The residents' and their authorized representatives participated in the developing and updating of the NSPs.

Three of the residents had Quarterly Reports. However, the reports were not comprehensive in that they did not focus on the goals of the NSPs. Two of the residents did not require a Quarterly Report at the time of the review.

The residents were provided with therapeutic services and treatment programs outlined in St. Anne's Program Statement.

## **Recommendations**

### **2. St Anne's management:**

- a. Develop Needs and Services Plans that reflect specific and measurable objectives and parenting goals.**
- b. Create Quarterly Reports that focus on the goals in the Needs and Services Plan.**

## **III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

### **Comments:**

The residents attended school and their files contained progress reports and report cards. The facility provided educational support in the form of tutoring, encouragement, and communication with school personnel. The residents stated that they were motivated regarding their educational goals.

The residents participated in adequate daily cognitive stimulation, independent educational study programs, adult education programs, and were offered the opportunity to participate in vocational training.

The residents were taught basic activities of daily living, self-help, and survival skills, which included accessing public transportation, child care, and purchasing products of necessity for themselves and their children. The residents were required to maintain their rooms and expected to maintain their personal hygiene, and their children's, on a daily basis. The residents ate meals with their children in the dining hall.

## **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

**Comments:**

St. Anne's followed an activities schedule to which the residents provided input. The majority of off-grounds activities were scheduled for the weekends because, during the week, the residents' time was restricted due to therapeutic groups and child rearing responsibilities.

Various community resources were utilized by the facility for off-site activities including a planned trip to the Griffith Park train ride for those residents with children. Some of the on-site recreational activities included baby showers, birthday celebrations, talent shows, holiday celebrations, and parties.

The residents reported an overall satisfaction with the activities provided by St. Anne's and were able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation was provided to and from activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. PSYCHOTROPIC/OTHER MEDICATION**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**There were forty-eight residents placed in St. Anne's at the time of the review. A review of one case file was conducted for the resident prescribed psychotropic medication.**

**Comments:**

There was a current court authorization for the resident receiving psychotropic medication and documentation confirmed that the resident was routinely seen by the psychiatrist for a review of her medication.

The medication log was properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS**

### **Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

#### **Comments:**

The residents were presented with the policies, rules, and regulations upon arrival in the facility. The residents felt safe in the home, reported that they were treated with respect, and indicated that a sufficient number of staff was present when residents were in the facility. St. Anne's had an appropriate rewards and discipline system in place that the residents felt was fair. The residents gave their rooms and the overall facility favorable ratings.

The residents were permitted to telephone their authorized representatives and stated that they had sufficient privacy during telephone calls and visits. The residents were permitted to go to their rooms for relaxation, quiet time, and to spend time with their children. They expressed pleasure with the amount of privacy and personal space provided by the facility.

The residents expressed satisfaction with their snacks, but three residents stated that they were not satisfied with the food explaining that the meals were usually heavy and unappetizing. This was discussed with management during the exit conference who stated that they would develop a process for residents to provide input regarding the food.

The residents stated that staff was culturally sensitive to each resident's background and ethnicity. The residents had religious freedom, stated that their health care needs were met, and were aware of their right to refuse medication.

#### **Recommendations**

- 3. St Anne's management include residents in menu planning as required by the Statement of Work.**

## **VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCES**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

**Comments:**

St. Anne's provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. St. Anne's supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars and the children of the residents with a monthly clothing allowance of twenty-five dollars. The residents were given the opportunity to choose their clothing and their children's clothing.

The residents were provided with at least the required minimum weekly allowance that they were able to increase based on the agency's behavioral system. Residents were also given additional money for personal care items.

St. Anne's provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure space to store their personal items.

The residents had life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**